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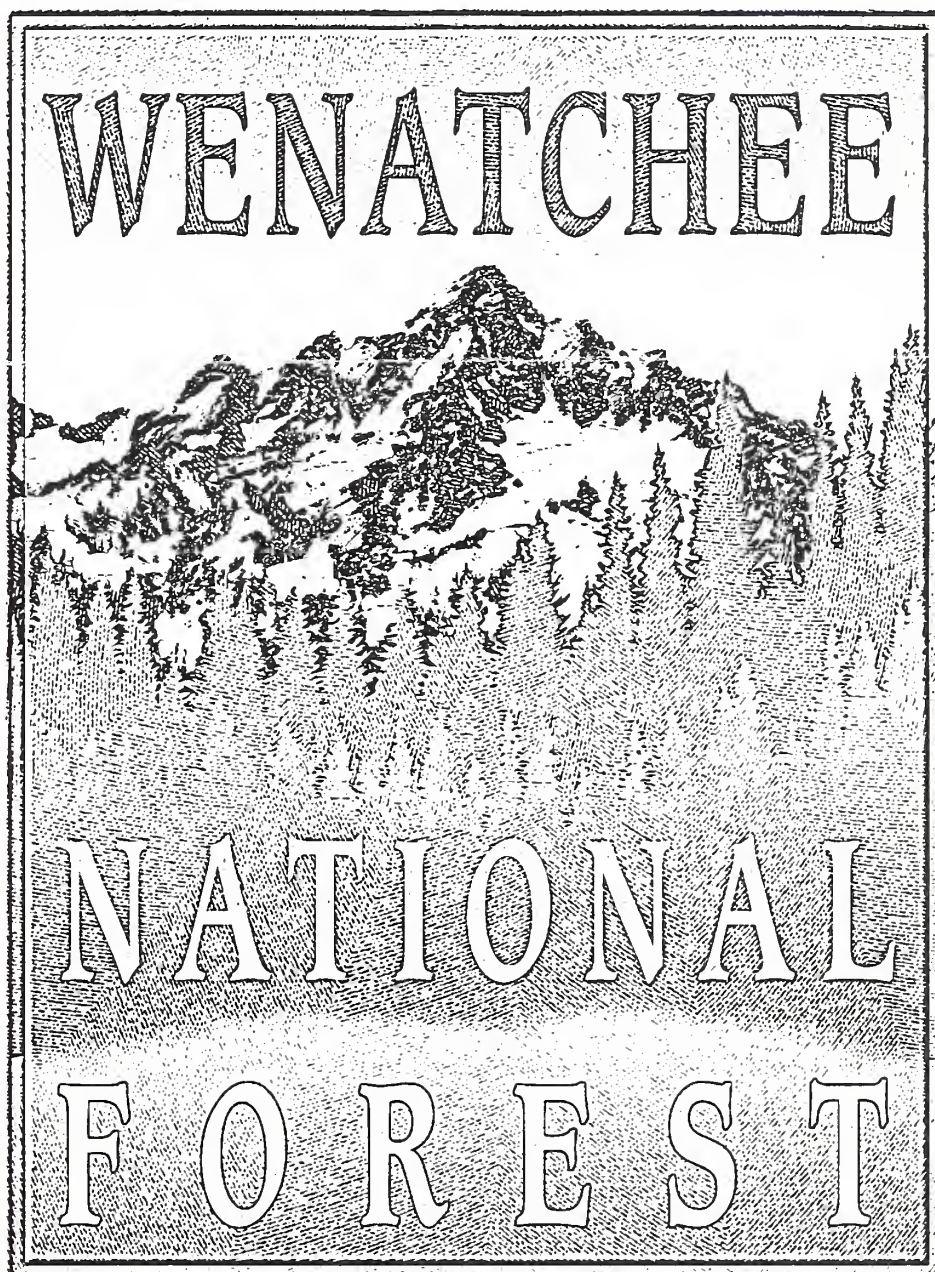
1999



Monitoring Report

for the Land and Resource
Management Plan

Wenatchee National Forest
Fiscal Year 1998



September 15, 1999

Dear Forest User,

The Wenatchee Forest Plan establishes general direction of all resource management activities on the Forest. It provides for forest protection and coordinated multiple-use management of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish, minerals, and wilderness. The overall purpose is protection of ecosystem resources and providing for the sustained production of goods and services for the benefit of the American people.

Monitoring is a key part of Forest Plan implementation. This report summarizes and highlights Forest Service monitoring activities for Fiscal Year 1998 (October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998). This is our ninth Monitoring Report.

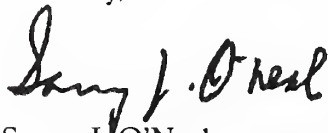
As Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor, I am responsible for ensuring that all Forest management activities comply with the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and Management Area Prescriptions. The monitoring and evaluation program tells us how we are doing in implementing the promises made in the Plan. To keep you informed, I have prepared the annual Monitoring Report which described progress made in implementing the Forest Plan as reflected by monitoring and evaluation. A Summary Table of the individual monitoring items is enclosed with this letter.

This year, the Monitoring Report can be accessed through the Internet on the Wenatchee National Forest's Homepage at www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to receive a hard copy of the Monitoring Report please return the self-addressed enclosed form. You may also receive a copy of the report by contacting Jim Furlong, Ecosystem Coordinator, (509) 662-4301 or Ruth Anne Miller, Writer-editor, (509) 662-4306.

The Wenatchee Forest Plan has been amended 14 times since its implementation in 1990 through the end of September, 1998. These amendments have kept the Forest Plan current and responsive to the changing needs of the American people. The Plan was substantially amended by the Northwest Forest Plan on April 13, 1994. Whenever the 'Forest Plan' is used in the Report it refers to the Wenatchee Forest Plan and all amendments.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the information in this report please contact the Wenatchee National Forest. I hope you will continue to be involved with the management of your Wenatchee National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sonny J. O'Neal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny J. O'Neal
Forest Supervisor

I. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE MONITORING REPORT

The Wenatchee Forest Plan was implemented in 1990 after extensive analysis and public review and comment. The Forest Plan was amended in 1994 by the Northwest Forest Plan. Preparation of the Forest Plan is required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. It provides standards, guidelines, land allocations, and philosophy which serve as the basis for all Forest Service management on the 2.2 million acre Wenatchee National Forest (Wenatchee NF).

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information to the Regional Forester, Forest Leadership Team, and the public on how well the *Forest Plan* objectives are being met. The monitoring and evaluation process will provide information to determine if:

laws, regulations, and policies are being followed, including those found in the *Forest Plan* Management Area Prescriptions, and Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, the Regional Guide, and Forest Service Handbooks.

the management prescriptions are producing the predicted Goals and Objectives or Desired Future Conditions of the Forest environment.

cost and annual budgets of implementing the *Forest Plan* are within projected limits.

the projected range of outputs is being produced; it will also evaluate effects.

A number of monitoring systems are already in place to comply with administrative and legal responsibilities. *Forest Plan* monitoring does not replace these systems, but rather complements them by addressing specific issues and concerns identified through the planning process.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Monitoring consists of gathering data, making observations, and collecting and disclosing information. Monitoring is also the means to determine how well objectives of the *Forest Plan* are being met, and how appropriate the management Standards and Guidelines are for meeting the projected Forest outputs and protecting the environment. Monitoring is used to determine how well assumptions used in development of the *Forest Plan* reflect actual conditions.

Monitoring and evaluation may lead to changes in practices or provide a basis for adjustments, amendments, or *Forest Plan* revisions. Monitoring is intended to keep the *Forest Plan* dynamic and responsive to change and new information.

II.

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The following categories of actions are used to summarize those monitoring items needing attention from the Forest Supervisor and Forest Leadership Team. Group Leaders responsible for each monitoring item have recommended actions based on their evaluations.

Results are Acceptable/Continue to Monitor

The results for these monitoring questions are either acceptable (within the 'Threshold of Variability' listed in Chapter V of the *Forest Plan*), or more than 1 or 2 years of data is needed to evaluate the results (continue to monitor). For some items, several years of data collection is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness or validity of the *Forest Plan*. Studies are being initiated to provide the baseline data and inventories necessary to answer these questions.

Change Management Practices

The results for these monitoring questions exceed the 'Threshold of Variability' for a particular monitoring item question in Chapter IV. An evaluation of the situation indicates the need to change practices to comply with the *Forest Plan*.

Further Evaluation/Determine Action

The results for these monitoring questions may or may not exceed the 'Threshold of Variability'. Additional information is needed to better identify the cause of the concern and to determine future actions.

Propose Forest Plan Amendment

Areas where results are inconsistent with the *Forest Plan* objectives or the *Forest Plan* direction was not clear. The follow-up action requires either changing or clarifying the *Forest Plan* through the amendment process. Non-significant amendments can be made by the Forest Supervisor; significant amendments require Regional Forester approval.

Summary Table

Monitoring Item	Results OK	Change Management	Further Evaluation	Forest Plan Amendment
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	■			
Trails	■			
Developed Recreation	■			
Management of Dispersed Recreation Areas	■			
Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers	■			
Scenery Management	■			
Wilderness	■			
Cultural Resources (Heritage Resources)	■			
Coordination of Forest Programs with Indian Tribes	■			
Sensitive Plants, Biodiversity, and Old Growth	■			
Old Growth and Mature Habitat Indicators	■			
Mountain Goat Habitat	■			
Deer and Elk Habitat	■			
Primary Cavity Excavators			■	
Riparian For Wildlife Indicators	■			
Bald Eagle Habitat	■			
Peregrine Falcon	■			
Grizzly Bear	■			
Gray Wolf	■			
Marbled Murrelet	■			
Bighorn Sheep	■			
Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	■			
Canadian Lynx	■			
Ferruginous Hawk		■		
Common Loon	■			
Harlequin Duck	■			
Red-Legged Frog and Western Pond Turtle	■			
Fisher	■			
Hawk and Owl Nest Sites	■			
Snails	■			
Timber Offered	■			
Timber Harvest Units	■			
Timber Harvest	■			
Silvicultural Practices	■			
Reforestation	■			
Lands Not Suitable for Timber Management	■			
Maintenance of Long-Term Soil Productivity			■	
Fish/Riparian Standards and Guidelines	■			
Effectiveness of Riparian Standards and Guidelines			■	
Fish Management Indicator Species (MIS) Populations	■			
Aquatic Habitat Objectives	■			
Aquatic Ecosystems			■	
Range Management-	■			
Road Management	■			
Insect and Disease	■			
Forest Fire Protection	■			
Use of Prescribed Fire	■			
Air Resource Management			■	
Mining Site Reclamation	■			
Mining Operating Plans	■			
Community Effects/Resource Budgets	■			
General Monitoring of Standards and Guidelines	■			

Place
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Wenatchee National Forest
Attn: Ruth Anne Miller
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801

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In order to reduce our printing and mailing costs, the Monitoring Report is available on the Internet (www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee). **Please let us know if you would like a hard copy mailed to you, or if you would like to be taken off of our mailing list.** You may also make any address corrections on the back of this form and send those in. Thank you.

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